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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Meeting of Governmental Experts from
Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and
Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial
and Development Institutions,
New York, 24-26 August 1999
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of progress in the development of transit systems in the land-locked and transit developing countries

   (a) Measures designed to reduce high transit costs
   (b) Impact of procedures and documentation on transit costs

4. Proposals for appropriate future action

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. The Fourth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions will be convened in New York from 24 to 26 August 1999 pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 52/183. The terms of reference of the Meeting as set out in this resolution are to review progress in the development of transit systems in the land-locked and transit developing countries, including sectoral aspects, as well as transit transporting costs, with a view to exploring the possibility of formulating action-oriented measures. The above evaluation of transit systems was undertaken in close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant subregional institutions, as called for by the resolution.

Item 1: Election of officers

2. The Meeting may wish to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work

3. The above provisional agenda has been prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat in line with the terms of reference given to the Meeting by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/183, paragraph 11.

4. The secretariat's suggestions for the organization of work and a tentative time-table of meetings are presented in tabular form in the annex. The Meeting, to be held from 24 to 26 August will be preceded by regional-specific consultations on Monday, 23 August 1999.

Item 3: Review of progress in the development of transit systems in the land-locked and transit developing countries

(a) Measures designed to reduce high transit costs
(b) Impact of procedures and documentation on transit costs

5. For its consideration of item 3, the Meeting will have before it a note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat[1] on measures designed to reduce high transit costs. The note provides a brief overview of recent developments in the economic and transit trade environment of land-locked developing countries. It focuses on measures designed to reduce transit costs, including harmonization, simplification and standardization of transit procedures and documentation, using as a point of reference five subregions, namely: North-East Asia; West Africa; Central Africa; Eastern Africa and Southern Africa. The meeting will also have a report compiled by the UNCTAD secretariat which summarizes the replies received from land-locked and transit developing countries, as well as some of the international and intergovernmental organizations involved in transit traffic and trade. These replies provide information related to the policies and actions that are being taken or are envisaged to improve transit transport systems.[2]

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[1] "Improvement of transit transport systems in land-locked and transit developing countries: Issues for consideration" (TD/B/LDC/AC.1/13)

[2] "Contributions by individual countries, and by international and intergovernmental organizations" (TD/B/LDC/AC.1/14)

6. In addition to the above basic documents, a number of background documents will also be before the Meeting in the language in which they were prepared and in limited quantities.

Item 4: Proposals for appropriate future action

7. The Meeting may wish to make recommendations relating to agenda item 3, as appropriate.

Item 5: Other business

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

8. The report of the Meeting, including its conclusions and recommendations for appropriate action, will be transmitted to the Trade and Development Board at its forty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

ANNEX

Tentative time-table of meetings
(23-26 August 1999)

Monday 23.8.99	Tuesday 24.8.99	Wednesday 25.8.99	Thursday 26.8.99
10 a.m. Opening of regional-specific consultations Regional-specific consultations	10 a.m. Opening of session Item 1. Election of Officers Item 2. Adoption of agenda and organization of work Statement by Special Coordinator for LDCs Statement by Chairman Opening of Informal meeting on item 3	10 a.m. Informal meeting on Item 3	Preparation of report
3 p.m. Regional-specific consultations	3 p.m. Informal meeting on item 3	3 p.m. Preparation of conclusions and recommendations (item 4)	3 p.m. Item 6. Adoption of report